

Discussion Questions: Wadjda

INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. FOR HOMEWORK, LIST SCENES THAT ARE RELEVANT TO EACH QUESTION. TRY TO THINK OF QUOTES AND SPECIFIC SCENARIOS THAT WILL HELP YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION
- B. IN CLASS YOU WILL WORK WITH A PARTNER TO DECIDE WHICH QUESTIONS WE SHOULD DISCUSS. THINK OF SPECIFIC REASONS WHY WE SHOULD DISCUSS EACH QUESTION.
- C. IN CLASS YOU WILL DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS WITH A GROUP. BE SURE TO HAVE SPECIFIC COMMENTS PREPARED.

- 1) What did you notice about Saudi Arabia as you were watching?
Think about the landscape, the school, Wadjda's house, the driver's house, the food, the cars, the stores, and any other aspects of the landscape.
Was it as you expected? Why, Why not?
- 2) What did you notice about the fashion in Saudi Arabia?
What was expected? What was surprising?
- 3) The shopkeeper who reserves the bike keeps it for "a brave little girl". In what ways is this true of Wadjda? What challenges does she face? (Describe specific scenes).
- 4) Compare and contrast Wadjda to one of the following girls. Mention specific scenes.
 - Her mother
 - Selma
 - Abir (the girl who is caught with a man)
 - The two girls caught in the back of the school with magazines
- 5) Who are the men in Wadjda's life? Who are the women?
- 6) Wadjda put her name on her dad's family tree. Later in the movie she finds her name removed and crumpled. Who do you think removed her name and why?
- 7) Wadjda's mother has a friend who wants her to work at the hospital. The mother says, "my husband is jealous...I can't work with men". Her friend says "you blame everything on your poor husband". Why does Wadjda's mother not work at the hospital? Is she simply blaming her husband as her friend suggests?
- 8) Why does Wadjda's dad marry a 2nd woman? Do you think he actually loves Wadjda and her mom?
- 9) Who enforces the norms (fashion, behavior, etc) in the lives of the girls/ women?
- 10) Is Wadjda more influenced by the men or the women? Defend your answer with a description of a scene.
- 11) How would you describe Wadjda's relationship with her mom/ dad? (describe 2 important scenes that show how they relate to each other)
- 12) Why does Wadjda cry when Abdalla brings training wheels?
- 13) Why do you think Wadjda's mom changed her mind about the bike?
- 14) Is the tone of the movie optimistic or pessimistic? Defend your answer.